

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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TOM SUNDERBRUCH, Chair  
JIM HANCOCK, Vice-Chair  
WILLIAM P. CUSACK  
CAROL EARNHARDT  
LARRY MINARD

June 13, 2011

Dear Senators,

Thank you for soliciting comments on the proposed property tax bill, House File 697 and amendment 1735. As the Board of Supervisors in Scott County, we have always prided ourselves in being fiscally conservative and having one of the lowest levy rates in the State. Our per capita tax bill of \$275 ranks the ninth lowest of the ninety-nine counties. We have a track record of a well managed, fiscally sound and conservative government. We have just achieved a fund balance of fifteen percent after several years of 10 to 12% which has been very difficult in these economic times. The Board does not need any further state constraints in budgeting to make us responsible to the taxpayers. We take that job seriously and our budgets have shown that commitment.

The House amendment seems to be premised on the basis that the County is in control of costs of all of its programs and services. That is not the case. Counties are required to fund many functions and agencies with the supplemental levy that are not within the Board's discretion to cut funding. For Scott County we are required to fund the Library at approximately \$550,000 per year and the EMA with consolidated dispatch with a budget of \$8,000,000. These agencies would not be subject to the CPI requirement. The levy also contains elections which can have a 25% change in costs from year to year. The other areas are risk and health insurance and jail costs which can have significant increases depending on claims. Finally, counties must fund state functions such as courts and human services also which submit budgets to the county outside of the CPI cap. These issues must be considered before passing this legislation.

Scott County has addressed the needs of our residents in many unique ways in order to deliver the best possible services at the lowest cost. We have entered into joint intergovernmental agreements and eliminated duplication of services by merging functions. The house bill would all but eliminate this approach. We appreciate the State's interest in addressing the inequities of the property tax system; however, we do not believe that it should include limiting the board's ability to address our residents' needs through our local budget. We believe we are elected to make those tough decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Sunderbruch".

Tom Sunderbruch  
Chairman